

RESHUFFLED WANDERERS' LATE WINNER SHAKES TOOTING

Tooting and Mitcham 2, Wycombe Wanderers 3

WYCOMBE WANDERERS' manager-coach Barry Darvill was forced to reshuffle the side at Tooting on Saturday. His positional changes paid handsome dividends when a Tony Horseman goal three minutes from time gave Wanderers both points.

Wanderers' success was ample revenge over the South London side, who won 3-2 at Loakes Park in October, 1967. Wycombe also registered their first Isthmian League away victory since December 2 last.

Owing to domestic reasons Ian Rundle was not available while John Beck was rested because of a nagging groin injury which has been troubling him for the last three games.

Versatile Keith Samuels dropped back to wing-half, releasing Charlie Gale to fill the right-back position. Vince Faulkner switched to centre-half and Barry Baker occupied the right-half berth. In the forward line Horseman returned, after his shoulder injury, to bolster the attack and Les Merrick led the front line.

Without a doubt the star of the match was Samuels. His non-stop running was an excellent example to his colleagues and he was continually driving the team forward often coming through to lend his weight to the attack.

GOOD FOOTBALL

The opening 30 minutes was full of good attacking football from both teams, all the forwards probing to find a way past defenders. Holmes nearly broke the bar with a scorching volley after 14 minutes which keeper McGuire could not have possibly seen!

At the other end Maskell pulled off two brilliant saves to prevent Tooting from taking command. Samuels set Wycombe on their way again, and watched spell-bound as McGuire pulled off a

breathtaking save from his 30-yard drive.

Wanderers appeared faster on the ball and more determined in the tackle and it was somewhat of a surprise that Tooting should take the lead four minutes before the break.

Eyres was directly at fault when he let Booth's pass slip under his feet and Jelly cut inside to hammer a low drive into the left hand corner. Jelly was certainly Tooting's most dangerous forward on view and it was unfortunate for Peter that his error should be punished so harshly.

However, Wycombe were soon on level terms after only six minutes of the second half. Busby cleverly headed a through ball into the path of Merrick and, while

McGuire hesitated, Les chose his spot.

This match was providing splendid entertainment for the spectators and both goals had narrow escapes. Jelly's drive beat Maskell but hit the left hand upright and then it was Tooting's turn to be saved by the woodwork when Samuels' delicate chip clipped the crossbar.

BUSBY SCORES

In the 63rd minute Wycombe went into the lead for the first time. A beautiful pin-point centre from Worley found the head of Busby who steered the ball into the top right hand corner.

Wanderers' lead was shortlived for only two minutes later Tooting equalised. Some intelligent thinking by Holder threw the Wycombe rearguard into a terrible tangle and Jelly was on hand to take advantage and put his side level.

Still, neither team would entertain the idea of closing the game up and Busby went close when his shot hit McGuire on the knees.

Eyres atoned for his earlier mis-judgement with a magnificent diving header away from the goal when Maskell was clearly caught in two minds as to whether to come out and gather the cross.

Although Tooting appeared to be in command of the last phase it was Wycombe who scored. McGuire had been hurt in a collision with Holmes and, from a throw-in Worley sold his shadow the dummy and centred. McGuire, obviously troubled by his right-arm, could not hold the ball cleanly and Horseman simply prodded the winner over the line.